

Claims 23, 24 and 25

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Knee does not anticipate the present subject matter. Applicant is unable to find, in Knee, a teaching of each and every claim element. For example, Applicant is unable to find, in Knee, a teaching of changing a gate voltage on a field effect transistor (FET), as recited in claim 24. As another example, Applicant is unable to find, in Knee, selecting a predetermined number of programmable bits from a plurality of programmable bits, as recited in claim 25.

In addition, Applicant submits that each of claims 23-25 recites additional elements beyond those of base claim 7 from which each depends. Thus, it is believed that each of claims 23-25 are in condition for allowance.

For these and other reasons, Applicant submits that claims 23-25 are not anticipated and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance.

Esch, Jr.

Claims 8-10, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Esch, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,310), hereinafter "Esch, Jr."

Claim 8

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Esch, Jr. does not anticipate the present subject matter. Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., a teaching of each and every claim element. For example, Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., selecting a resistance of a divider network based on a manufacturing process, a supply voltage and a temperature, as recited in claim 8. The Office Action cites 262 and 264 of Figure 6 however Applicant finds no support for selecting a resistance, as recited in the claim. Thus, Applicant further submits that Esch, Jr. does not teach the identical invention in as complete detail as is contained in the claim.

Furthermore, Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., selecting an edge rate of a driver, as recited in claim 8. In particular, Applicant finds no discussion in Esch, Jr. concerning edge rate.

For these and other reasons, Applicant submits that claim 8 is not anticipated and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance.

Claims 9, 10, 15 and 16

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that Esch, Jr. does not anticipate the present subject matter. Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., a teaching of each and every claim element. For example, Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., a teaching of maintaining a substantially constant edge rate, as recited in claim 9. As another example, Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., receiving a tristate enable signal and actuating a switchable resistance element in response to the tristate enable signal, both as recited in claim 15. Furthermore, Applicant is unable to find, in Esch, Jr., a teaching of actuating a programmable inverter, as recited in claim 16.

In addition, Applicant submits that each of claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 recites additional elements beyond those of base claim 8 from which each depends. Thus, it is believed that each of claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 are in condition for allowance.

For these and other reasons, Applicant submits that claims 9, 10, 15 and 16 are not anticipated and respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-14 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant respectfully traverses and submits that each of claims 11-14 are allowable. Each claim depends from an allowable base claim, and thus, each of claims 11-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

For these and other reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-14.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (612-373-691) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

RODNEY RUESCH

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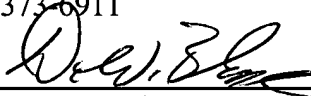
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January 10, 2002

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this 10th day of January, 2002.

PATRICIA A. HULTMAN

Name


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